

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a transparent cover for providing a linear image reading region that has a first length;

a light source for generating light directed toward a the linear image reading region on  
the transparent cover ~~that has a first length;~~

a plurality of light-receiving elements that output image signals corresponding to  
received light;

an array of lenses that focuses light onto the light-receiving elements, the array of lenses  
having a second length that is greater than the first length; and

a light-shielding member;

wherein all of the light-receiving elements are arranged in a single line having an  
extremity, the light-shielding member covering at least one light-receiving element disposed at  
the extremity outside the first length of the linear reading region but inside the second length of  
the lens array.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein remaining light-receiving  
elements other than the covered light-receiving element or elements are exposed.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the covered light-receiving element is arranged to avoid direct facing to an object to be read out.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding member comprises one of a metal layer and a nonmetal layer.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the nonmetal layer is made of a paint material.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding member is black.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a semiconductor chip in which the plurality of light-receiving elements are built in.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the light-shielding member covers a part of the semiconductor chip in addition to said one light-receiving element disposed at the extremity.

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Inventor: Hiroshi FUKUMOTO et al.

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9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an additional semiconductor chip in which a plurality of identical light-receiving elements are built in, wherein all of the identical light-receiving elements are exposed.